

HEROD--HE GAVE NOT GOD THE GLORY

Acts 12:20-25

Acts 12:20 *Highly displeased*: bore a hostile mind... with an intent to war.

Possibly Herod humiliated by what happened in Jerusalem

Blastus...chamberlain: officer who is in charge with the chamber or chambers , specifically the bed-chamber.

Chief valet ... position of much honor and intimacy.

Influential position

Held in trust by king

Acts 12:21 During festival honoring Roman Emperor Claudius Caesar.

August 1, emperor's birthday

King wore beautiful silver robe

Sat upon his throne: amphitheater built by Herod the Great.

Acts 12:23 Immediately: no time wasted

Angel of the Lord: Same as the angel of the Lord throughout OT. Jesus or Gabriel.

Acts 8:26; 12:7

- ◆ Killed 70,000 men .2 Sam 24: 15-16
- ◆ Killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. 2 Ki 19:35
- ◆ Appeared to Moses in burning bush. Ex 13:21.
- ◆ Led Israel out of Egypt. Ex 23:20.
- ◆ Commissioned Gideon. Judg 6:11.

Dr. Morton: "*eaten of worms,*" ... *skolekobrotos, i.e. diseased with maggots:--eaten of worms. ... "a specific head structure of a tapeworm."* ...

Josephus says: lingered five days, terrible pain.suffered ignominious and shameful death. 54 years of age when died. God tolerated leadership 7 years.

Herod's sin: gave not God the glory

Dared to receive worship that belonged to Jehovah God!

Barnes: *It was the more sinful in him as he was a Jew, and was acquainted with the true God, and with the evils of idolatry. He was proud, and willing to be flattered, and even adored.*

Others who died of same disease:

Antiochus Epiphanes. 2 Macc. 9

Herod the Great. Josephus, Antiq., book 17, chapter 6, section 5

Death was painful, sudden, disgusting, repulsive and nauseating

Applications:

1. God's judgment on wicked often sudden and violent.
2. God will not share His glory with another! Isa 42:8
3. God has very little tolerance for proud leaders. Prov 11:21; 16:5; 8:13; Lev 26:13-22 Prov 11:2; 16:18; 29:23; Dan 5:20-21

Eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost—died of disorder by which he was then seized, after having lingered, in excruciating torments, for five days, as Josephus has stated.

Wiersbe: *"The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead" (Prov. 11:8). This truth is illustrated in the death of Herod. While God does not always bring retribution this quickly, we can be sure that the Judge of all the earth will do what is right (Gen. 18:25; Rev. 6:9-11).*

I cannot help but see in King Herod an illustration of the future "man of sin" who will one day rule the world and persecute God's people (2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13). ...

The world still lives for praise and pleasure. Man has made himself his own god (Rom. 1:25). The world still lives on the physical and ignores the spiritual (see 1 John 2:15-17). It lives by force and flattery instead of faith and truth, and one day it will be judged.

Acts 12:24-25 Transition

But the word of God grew and multiplied. Blood of martyrs is seed of church. Mat 16:18

Acts 12:25 ***Fulfilled their ministry:*** Gone to Jerusalem to deliver monies collected for relief fund in Jerusalem.

John Mark: cousin of Barnabas (Col 4: 10).

- Gone with them to Jerusalem to deliver relief fund
- Accompanies them on first missionary journey (13:5)
- Defection ...led to a falling out between Paul and Barnabas (15:36-40).

Chapters 1-12 birth and growth of the local church. Isa 54:16-17

Mac: *that, according to the promise of the Redeemer, the gates of hell could not prevail against it. In that God and Saviour who then defended the church, we may still confide, and may be assured that he who was then its friend has it still "engraved on the palms of his hands," and designs that it shall extend until it fills the earth with light and salvation.*

Clark: *If a man contend with a man, the contest is in a certain way equal – the potsherds strive with the potsherds of the earth; but when a man enters the lists against his Maker, as every persecutor does, woe unto that man! – He must be torn in pieces, when there is none to deliver.*